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HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
of
PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT,

Issued on
the sesquicentennial of
the founding of the first organized system of
public land management .

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT,

Washington, D.C.

1962

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HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

of

PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Publicly owned lands of the United States have made a significant contribution to the American way of life.

Today, more than a billion acres of these lands have been transferred to private ownership by any of a variety of Congressional laws. In addition, many areas of the public domain have been set aside for a wide variety of specific purposes—the national forests, wildlife refuges, national parks, military reservations, national monuments, and lands for other uses.

This publication is a chronology of the highlights of actions and events that have affected public land management since the founding, 150 years ago, of the first organized system of public land management.

Actions and events are included either because they set a precedent or inaugurated a policy which later had profound impact on public land management and the national land reserve.

While the listing is by no means exhaustive, the chronology accurately reflects the long-term development of national resource policies—particularly as they influenced the management, conservation, and disposition of the national land reserve.

Responsible for this national land reserve is the Bureau of Land Management, whose organization and functions reflect the principal areas of Federal interest: lands and recreation, range and wildlife, forest resources, mineral resources, conservation and protection, and supporting services of administration and engineering.

All of these are elements of our national system of public land and resource management. The system has many times improved since its original establishment in 1812 and is continued today by the Bureau of Land Management, a key component of the Department of the Interior.

- 1498** Atlantic seaboard, from Virginia northward, first discovered during several voyages of the Cabots, and claimed for England.
- 1513** Florida explored and named by Ponce de León, and claimed for Spain.
- 1519** Hernando Cortés began conquest of Mexico, for Spain. About 1524, explored northern land region of conquered Mexico.
- 1528** Region of Texas first explored by Francisco Coronado, and claimed for Spain.
- 1533** Lower California discovered during maritime expedition by Hernando Cortés.
- 1539** Gulf of California explored during maritime expedition by Francisco de Ulloa.
- 1540** Extensive land region north of Rio Grande explored by Francisco Coronado, and claimed for Spain.
- Grand Canyon discovered by Don Garcia Lopez de Cardenas.
- 1541** Mississippi River discovered and partially explored by Hernando de Soto.
- 1565** First Spanish colony in America founded at St. Augustine, Florida, by Menéndez de Avilés. In 1586, colony attacked unsuccessfully by Sir Francis Drake.
- 1578** First Spanish mission founded in region of New Mexico, at San Juan.
- 1584** First English attempt to colonize America by the Virginia Company, at Roanoke Island, failed. Second attempt in 1587 also failed.

- 1607** First permanent English colony in America founded at Jamestown, by the Virginia Company.
- 1609** Henry Hudson, an Englishman employed by Dutch East India Company, explored harbor of New York and up river to Albany, and claimed for the Netherlands.
- 1618** Land tenure in Virginia based on head-right system, by which 50 acres of land granted to each person who paid either his own or someone else's transportation from England to America. Larger tracts could also be purchased from the Virginia Company. All tracts located indiscriminately, without system of land survey.
- 1620** First English colony founded in New England, at Plymouth. Other English colonies established in New England during ensuing decade.
- 1624** First Dutch colony founded in New Netherlands, at New York.
- 1626** Ordinance of Plymouth Colony forbade sale or export of timber without authorization, due to diminution of trees. Earliest conservation law.
- 1630** Estimated colonial population: 5,700.
- Land grants to immigrants in New England made by general courts. Settlers granted tracts of 10 to 100 acres. English officials voted themselves tracts of 1,000 to 9,000 acres.
- 1634** English colony founded in Maryland. Land tenure similar to head-right system of the Virginia Company.
- 1636** Ordinance of Plymouth Colony imposed stiff penalties for unauthorized cutting or removal of timber.
- Settlers in New York granted land tracts up to 100 acres each. Extensive tracts awarded for importation of as many as 50 families of Dutch immigrants.

1641 Office of Surveyor General established in Maryland. A similar office established later in Virginia.

1650 Estimated colonial population: 51,700.

1662 Connecticut issued corporate charter. A year later, Rhode Island issued corporate charter. All land grants determined by New England council.

1664 After creation of New Jersey, land tenure established according to head-right system of the Virginia Company.

After English assumed control of New York, land tenure established similar to head-right system of the Virginia Company.

1670 English colony founded in Carolinas, at Charleston. Land allotted similar to head-right system of Virginia, with each colonist granted 20 to 80 acres. Much larger tracts sold to affluent buyers. All tracts located indiscriminately, without system of land survey.

1676 Sale of lands first introduced in New Jersey.

1680 End of Spanish settlement in New Mexico, when all colonists were killed or driven out during Pueblo uprising.

1681 Pennsylvania founded as colony of England, by William Penn. Adopted head-right system of land allotment, with each colonist granted 50-acre farm. Estates of 5,000 acres sold for £100. Every land grant included provision for forest conservation. For every five acres of land cultivated, one acre of trees left standing.

1682 La Salle explored along Mississippi River. Claimed adjacent lands for France. Called vast territory: Louisiana.

1683 Sale of lands first introduced in Maryland.

- 1685** French colony founded on gulf coast of Texas. Entire populace later killed by Indians.
- 1687** Sale of lands introduced in North Carolina.
- 1690** Estimated population of American colonies: 213,500.
- 1694** Sale of lands introduced in South Carolina.
- 1695** Spanish colony founded in western Florida, at Pensacola.
- 1700** Spanish mission established in region of Arizona, at San Xavier.
- 1701** English governor of New York advocated that those cutting trees commercially should reforest such areas by planting young trees.
- Sale of lands introduced in Virginia.
- 1702** Canadians founded three outposts in Illinois country in unsuccessful attempt to link Canada with Louisiana.
- 1713** First regular use of rectangular system of surveys in New England. Townships, 6 miles square, surveyed beyond settled frontier for future expansion.
- 1715** First State land grants to veterans of colonial wars by New England.
- 1716** Small tracts of land sold outright to settlers by middle and southern colonies.
- 1720** Estimated population of American colonies: 474,500.

Grants and sales of extensive areas by southern colonies depleted available areas for settlers of modest means. This gave rise to first squatters, who subsisted without title on proprietary property.

- 1720** Province of Maine purchased from English proprietors by colonists of Massachusetts.
- 1721** State sale price for 100 acres of unoccupied or public lands in Pennsylvania £10. In Maryland £2. In Virginia 10s.
- 1732** Georgia founded as English colony. Granted 50-acre farm to each colonist, and 500 acres of land to settler with family of six or more.
- 1740** Estimated population of American colonies: 889,000.
- 1755** Broad-arrow system of reserving timber introduced in New England, and later in Virginia. Oak, cedar, and mulberry trees of suitable size blazed with a broad arrow to reserve them for use as ship masts.
- 1763** England acquired right to all lands east of Mississippi as result of Seven Years' War, which cancelled all claims of individual colonies. Pioneers prohibited from entering region west of Alleghenies.
- 1764** Settlers moved into Vermont and New Hampshire, and later Maine.
- 1765** Pennsylvania created Commission of Property for survey and sale of unoccupied lands in colony.
- 1766** Rutgers University authorized in New Jersey. Opened to students in 1771. Became land-grant institution in 1863.
- 1767** Mason-Dixon Line surveyed to settle boundary dispute between Delaware and Pennsylvania.
- 1770** First colonists from Virginia and North Carolina began illegal settlement of eastern Tennessee and Kentucky.
- 1774** First local land offices opened in western Virginia for direct sale of tracts to settlers in region.

1775 Estimated population of American colonies: 2,800,000.

Part of Kentucky illegally purchased from Indians by Transylvania Company. Virginia assumed title in 1776, and established Kentucky County.

Virginia promised land bounties of 100 acres for enlistment in the Continental Army.

1776 Area in western Virginia illegally founded by Vandalia Company, and called Westsylvania. Title assumed by Virginia after the Revolutionary War.

First act of Continental Congress pertaining to disposition of public lands. Act of August 14th offered deserters from British Army—both English and Hessians—50 acres of public lands plus citizenship.

Act of September 16th promised land bounties for military and naval services during the Revolutionary War. Land warrants, subsequently issued to veterans, were confined to a “military district” of 2,560,000 acres of public lands in the Northwest Territory.

1777 Continental Congress urged all States to seize and dispose of land owned by Loyalists and adherents to English King. All States had followed this advice by 1782, and were in the real estate business.

1779 First State land office opened in Virginia. Similar to a general land office.

Virginia authorized sale of unoccupied 100-acre tracts at £40 as means of partially paying debts incurred by war.

1780 New York ceded all western land claims to new Government. Virginia surrendered vast region north of Ohio River in 1781. Massachusetts ceded all western claims in 1784. Connecticut followed in 1786. South Carolina in 1787. North Carolina in 1790. Georgia in 1802. All of these areas, collectively, constituted the public domain.

1783 Settling on lands inhabited or claimed by Indians, or purchasing or receiving lands from Indians, prohibited without congressional authority.

1784 Massachusetts established a State land office in Boston. Rufus Putnam appointed Surveyor.

Two congressional committees appointed, both under Thomas Jefferson, to report on problems of land sales and of government in the Northwest Territory and other western country. The first study led to the Land Ordinance of 1785. The study on government led to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787

1785 Land Ordinance established rectangular system of cadastral surveys of public lands in Northwest Territory, north of Ohio River. This surveying system, by means of degrees of latitude and meridians of longitude, divided large areas of public lands into townships about 36 miles square, and subdivided each township into 36 square sections of 360 acres each. Survey lines ran either east and west, or north and south. Rectangular system accepted as standard for all future Federal surveys, because provided an easy way to describe and locate tracts of the public domain. The Land Ordinance also established important land reservations. In every surveyed township, 1 section was reserved for future use or support of public elementary education, and 4 sections were reserved for future disposition by Government of any mineral resources. Remaining 31 sections of each surveyed township authorized for sale by auction at minimum of \$1 an acre—but to be sold only in units of either a section of 360 acres, or a partial township of about 20,000 acres. After survey and reservations, such lands were to be subsequently sold at auction by the Board of Treasury of the new Government.

Ordinance of May 20th reserved the Virginia Military Land District—a considerable area of public lands in eastern part of Northwest Territory—upon which could be located warrants for military bounty lands.

Thomas Hutchinson designated geographer, primarily to supervise cadastral survey of Northwest Territory according to rectangular system.

1785 University of Georgia authorized. Opened to students in 1801. Became a land-grant institution in 1886.

Office of Commissioners of the Board of Treasury organized in New York City. In addition to fiscal duties, Board of three members was authorized to manage sales, collect monies, maintain records, and issue patents or deeds to tracts of public lands—as soon as plats of salable lands became available, nearly 2 years later.

1786 First Government survey of public lands begun in eastern part of Northwest Territory. Using rectangular system, region under survey included “The Seven Ranges” north of the Ohio River. A geographer, Thomas Hutchinson, supervised all field work performed by professional surveyors—one of whom was Josiah Meigs. As surveys of townships were completed, plats were forwarded to the Board of Treasury in New York City.

1787 Northwest Ordinance provided basis for territorial self-government by settlers north of the Ohio River, with future new States in that region to be admitted to the Union on equal terms with original States. Ordinance encouraged mass settlement of entire region.

Several townships on Lake Erie reserved for future land grants to refugees of Canada and Nova Scotia, who had sided or were allied with Americans during Revolutionary War.

Fundamental authority established for public land and resource management with adoption of the Constitution of the United States, which in article IV stated: “Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting territory and property belonging to the United States * * *.”

Ordinance of August 7th authorized issue of military land grants by War Department. Issuance transferred to Treasury Department in 1812.

1787 Sale of first public lands directed by Congress as soon as four of "The Seven Ranges" in Northwest Territory had been surveyed, and plats forwarded to Commissioners of the Board of Treasury. Then, at irregular but well-advertised periods, at office of the Board in New York City, salable lands indicated on plats were offered for sale to highest bidders over minimum price of \$1 an acre. Sales continued, sporadically, for several years.

Private sales of public lands made by Commissioners of the Board of Treasury in New York City. More than 800,000 acres in Northwest Territory sold to the Ohio Company at \$.66 an acre. In following years, several other sales of large surveyed areas negotiated privately with land speculators and promoters. Although helping to colonize Ohio, such sales were financially unsuccessful, and abandoned.

1788 First patent for single tract of public lands issued March 4th at office of Commissioners of the Board of Treasury in New York City. This and subsequent patents prepared by the Treasury Department, personally signed by the President, countersigned by the Secretary of State, and recorded by the State Department—before delivery.

1789 First Government survey completed of "The Seven Ranges" in eastern part of Northwest Territory, north of Ohio River.

Act of September 2d created the Treasury Department with various fiscal functions plus the sale of public lands. Previous duties of Commissioners of the Board of Treasury transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury, who became the executive sales agent for all unreserved public lands north and west of the Ohio River. In accordance with Land Act of 1785, auction sales of these lands were held at irregular periods in the offices of the Treasury Department in New York City. After every sale, each patent prepared by that Department was physically signed by the President, countersigned by the Secretary of State, and recorded by the State Department—prior to delivery to owner.

1790 Population of the United States: nearly 4 million.

1790 Southwest Ordinance provided for system of government, similar to Northwest Ordinance, for settlers on public lands in the region south of Tennessee—except lands in Florida claimed by Spain.

At request of Congress, a plan was proposed by Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, for the uniform sale of public lands by an entirely new Federal organization. Identified in the proposal as a General Land Office, it was to be supported by subordinate land offices in the western territorial governments. Although plan was largely ignored by Congress at the time, an almost-identical system was enacted into law 22 years later. (See 1812, General Land Office.)

1791 University of Vermont authorized. Opened to students in 1801. Became a land-grant institution in 1862.

1794 Last of British troops evacuated from few remaining outposts in western part of Northwest Territory as result of Jay's Treaty with England. A new frontier was ready for settlement.

University of Tennessee authorized and opened to students. Became a land-grant institution in 1862.

1796 Act of May 18th provided for administration, survey, and sale of public lands in central part of Northwest Territory, north of Ohio River. The act established position of executive Surveyor General, who supervised work of professional surveyors under contract to the Government. The established system of rectangular surveys was continued, but arrangement of the 36 sections within each township was modified slightly and then utilized in that numerical pattern for all subsequent surveys of public lands. As part of their work, surveyors were required to describe the nature of soil, water, vegetation, and other aspects of lands under survey. As plats of survey were completed, they were forwarded to the Treasury Department in Philadelphia, where certain reservations were made in accordance with the act. Any salt spring or saline water was reserved by the Government—the first reservation of this type. Then, in every surveyed

1796 township, 1 section was reserved to aid public elementary education, and 4 sections were reserved for subsequent Government disposition. Based on plats of survey, alternate townships were priced for sale by auction at minimum price of \$2 an acre—half the townships to be sold in large blocks of 8 sections or 5,120 acres, and the other half to be sold in tracts of 640 acres. Act authorized installment buying: one half in 30 days, the balance in 1 year. Then, at predesignated times, tracts and townships of surveyed lands were placed on sale at offices of the Treasury Department in Philadelphia and in Pittsburgh. Secretary of the Treasury was responsible for keeping all plats of survey, administering sales, issuing land patents, and maintaining land records. All patents were personally signed by the President, and countersigned by the Secretary of State. But only 49,000 acres were patented during the 4 years of this act. (See: Land Act of 1800.)

Rufus Putnam appointed Surveyor General of Northwest Territory by President Washington. Putnam served until 1803, introducing many scientific improvements in rectangular system of surveying.

Act of June 1st established United States military land district of 2.5 million acres in eastern part of Northwest Territory. For about 30 years, all military land warrants issued by the Government could be located only upon the unreserved public lands within this district.

First road grant of public lands authorized for construction and maintenance of wagon trail, later known as Zane's Trace, and also ferry service, between Wheeling in western Virginia and Limestone in Ohio Territory.

1800 Population of the United States: over 5 million.

Act of May 10th authorized first Federal system of district land offices for transfer of surveyed public lands in Ohio Territory. Under control of the Treasury Department, each land office was staffed by a register, a receiver of public money, and assisting clerical personnel. Act retained minimum sale price of \$2 an acre, but amended minimum

1800 unit of sale to 320 acres. Act also extended credit period to four annual payments. During 4 years of act, land sales were poor. Act replaced by act of 1804.

First district land office opened at Steubenville, in Territory of Ohio, on July 2, 1800. Second office opened later in year at Marietta in same Territory.

1801 Act of March 3d instituted first of many laws on pre-emption or preference rights of pioneers. Pre-emption favored squatters, and discriminated against land speculators and investors. During subsequent 40 years, Congress enacted 16 pre-emption laws.

District land offices opened at Chillicothe and Cincinnati, in Ohio Territory.

1802 Cumberland Road authorized for construction between Potomac and Ohio Rivers. Completed in 1818.

First public land State of Ohio admitted to Union. Government retained title to all ungranted and unsold public lands within new State. One section of each township was granted to State for support of public education.

1803 Louisiana Purchase, negotiated by President Jefferson, resulted in acquisition of more than 500-million acres of public lands west of the Mississippi River.

Act of March 3d authorized military warrant for 11,520 acres of public lands in Ohio to General Lafayette, Revolutionary War hero.

Land Act of 1800 amended to include area south of Tennessee.

Jared Mansfield appointed Surveyor General by President Jefferson. Originally concerned with surveys of territory remaining between Ohio and the Mississippi, in 1804 he was responsible for surveying all public lands east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio Rivers.

1804 Act of March 26th extended previous public land laws of 1796 and 1800. Primarily to aid settlement of Indiana and Illinois Territories, Act lowered minimum sale unit to 160 acres, abolished minimum sale price, and provided easier terms. Act also prescribed strict penalties for unauthorized surveying or for moving or defacing boundary markers.

First district land office opened in Michigan, at Detroit.

1805 First district land offices opened in Louisiana; at New Orleans, Opelousas, Ouachita.

1806 First district land office opened in Alabama, at St. Stephens.

Indemnity scrip first authorized for land claims left unsatisfied by lack of confirmed location of tracts. Many individual issues, covered by separate congressional legislation, throughout following 66 years.

1807 First district land office opened in Indiana, at Vincennes.

Government first recognized, and so confirmed to claimants, land titles originally granted or issued under foreign governments of Spain, France, Mexico, other countries.

First district land office opened in Mississippi, at Washington.

Lewis and Clark, and their subordinates, granted tracts of public lands for earlier services in exploring and defining much of territory of Louisiana Purchase.

Lead mines on public lands first leased by Government to private enterprises. This practice continued for about 40 years, when it was replaced by direct sales of mineral lands.

1809 First district land office opened in Tennessee, at Nashville.

First district land office opened in Illinois, at Kaskaskia.

1810 Population of United States: over 7 million.

Josiah Meigs appointed Surveyor General of all public lands east of Mississippi River. Office of Surveyor General under Treasury Department.

1812 Act of April 25th established the General Land Office in Washington, D.C., as a bureau of Treasury Department. Functions of General Land Office embraced issuance of land warrants and grants, schedule of sales at various district land offices, collection of monies from land sales, preparation and issuance of patents or deeds, and the maintenance of land records—including copies of plats of survey, tract books, original entries, copies of patents, case records, and related data. Under supervision of a Commissioner, staff of first General Land Office consisted of chief clerk, draftsman, general clerk, and six junior clerks. Commissioner was responsible for all planning, administration, and staff duties pertaining to organization and operations of the General Land Office and all district land offices. First Commissioner appointed was Edward Tiffin, an Ohio statesman and former surveyor, who immediately became chief architect and executive manager of first organized system of public land management. This incipient system included all aspects of control, administration, recording, and transfer of public lands—by grant, sale, or other means—by the General Land Office, supported by district land offices located appropriately throughout the Nation. At district land offices, tracts of surveyed public lands were sold at auction to highest bidder—at or above minimum price per acre specified by Congress. Auction sales were held irregularly, and lasted about 2 weeks—if enough tracts remained to be sold, and if enough prospective bidders appeared. After auction period, all lands remaining unsold were available indefinitely for over-the-counter sales at minimum price. To do this work, each district land office was staffed by a register of records, a receiver of monies, clerical assistants, and, from time to time, an auctioneer and his special clerk. Records of all land transactions were forwarded to the General Land Office for filing and subsequent preparation of patents or other land documents. Every issued patent was personally signed by the President until 1833, when a full-time secretary was authorized by Congress to sign the President's name. Completed patents

1812 were returned by General Land Office to original district land office for delivery to new owner of property. All of these processes and procedures were functional aspects of the new system of public land management organized and introduced by Commissioner Tiffin of the General Land Office.

Survey of Michigan begun.

First Congressional legislation proposed by Commissioner Tiffin of newly established General Land Office. Subject: Land claims in Louisiana Territory.

Act of May 6th established system of warrants or land bounties for military service during War of 1812 by veterans, or heirs. Military land warrants could be located upon any of the public lands within a military land district. Three new military land districts—each about 2 million acres—reserved in Illinois, Arkansas, and Missouri. Military warrants and land grants administered by General Land Office.

Act of June 13th granted public lands for town sites, and confirmed boundaries of some existing towns in Missouri. Act later amended to apply nationally to town sites and county seats. This became policy for survey and use of public lands for new townsites and town holdings in unserved areas of the public domain.

Act of October 5th granted one township of public lands in Mississippi for the support of Jefferson College.

At close of year, 16 district land offices were operating in Ohio and 6 territories as field components of new system of public land management introduced 8 months earlier by Commissioner of the General Land Office. State land offices were open in Ohio at Steubenville, Marietta, Chillicothe, Cincinnati, Zanesville, and Canton; and in Louisiana at New Orleans, Opelousas, and Ouachita. Territorial land offices were open in Michigan at Detroit; in Indiana at Vincennes and Jeffersonville; in Illinois at Kaskaskia; in Mississippi at Washington; and in Alabama at St. Stephens and Huntsville.

1813 First annual report of organization and operations of new system of Public land management submitted to Congress by Commissioner Edward Tiffin of the General Land Office. Report featured an elaborately graphic exhibit—showing for the first time: quantities and locations of public lands, stands of timber, mineral deposits, military land districts, and other data. Estimated size of public domain was 400 million acres in December, 1813.

1814 After War of 1812, settlers began major migration westward to occupy public lands in Mississippi valley.

Surveys of Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas begun.

Act of February 10th granted about 875 acres of public lands in northern Louisiana to Daniel Boone.

Josiah Meigs appointed Commissioner of General Land Office, with staff of 10 clerks. At same time, Edward Tiffin, former Commissioner, became Surveyor General of territories east of Mississippi, with his headquarters at Chillicothe, Ohio. Tiffin continued survey work—perfecting territorial plats—for more than 15 years.

1815 Improved clerical procedures plus expansion of facilities and functions of General Land Office introduced by Commissioner Meigs, who even added meteorology to field operations of district land offices. Josiah Meigs held appointive position of Commissioner for 8 years.

1816 Act of March 25th authorized settlers on unreserved public lands to remain as “tenants at will”, but to relinquish rights if property was sold. This was first show of official sympathy toward squatters on public domain.

1817 Surveys of Alabama and Mississippi begun.

1818 First district land offices opened in Missouri, at St. Louis and Franklin.

1819 Spanish cession of Florida plus adjustment of Spanish boundaries west of Mississippi River added more than 46 million acres to public domain.

1820 Population of United States: over 9 million.

Act of April 24th abandoned credit system for buying public lands. Minimum price fixed at \$1.25 an acre, and minimum unit of sale 80 acres. Public lands initially offered by district land offices at preannounced, scheduled public auction. Then, if unsold, lands available for purchase at minimum price on first-come-first-served basis.

1821 First district land office opened in Arkansas, at Little Rock.

First relief act in aid of settlers. Extended further credit, eased financial burden of settlers delinquent in paying credit installments. Ten additional relief acts enacted by Congress during next 11 years.

1822 On 10th anniversary of founding of first organized system of public land management, there were 29 district land offices associated with the General Land Office.

1823 First grant of public lands for construction of public wagon road in central Ohio. Various other wagon road grants made from time to time, until 1869.

1824 Survey of Florida begun.

First levee grant of public lands made to two parishes in Louisiana for construction and maintenance of levees along Mississippi River.

Road Survey Act provided Federal assistance in surveying new trails and wagon roads, mostly lateral extensions of original Cumberland Road.

1824 First grant of public lands for construction of canal, in Indiana; but never utilized. Subsequent canal grants in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois during 1827 and 1828; in Wisconsin between 1838 and 1874; in Michigan between 1852 and 1866.

Indian Office established under War Department. Became a bureau in 1832. Transferred to the Department of the Interior in 1849 as Office of Indian Affairs. In 1947 became Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Patent issued for township of public lands in Florida, under military land warrant, to General Lafayette, Revolutionary War hero.

1825 First district land office opened in Florida, at Tallahassee.

1826 Act of April 5th granted public lands to be located in any frontier territory for Deaf and Dumb Asylum of Kentucky. Later patented were 2,100 acres in Arkansas, and 20,400 acres in Florida.

1827 Appropriation Act authorized reservation of public lands for conservation of large stands of oak trees.

1828 First grant of public lands for improving navigation on Mississippi River. Last river grant in 1862.

Santa Rosa Live Oak Reservation established as Government experiment in Federal timber management. Abandoned 3 years later.

1829 First of nearly 100 separate Indian treaties, to divide and reapportion tribal land areas. Of each newly established area, a small portion allowed Indians for their reservation. Balance usually opened to settlement. Making of such treaties with Indian tribes abolished in 1871.

1830 Population of United States: over 12 million.

First allotment of Indian lands began practice of breaking up tribal land areas, by granting small tracts to individual Indians. This diminution continued until 1934.

1831 Survey of Louisiana begun.

First permanent Indian reservation established on public lands, west of Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas. Called Indian Territory.

1833 Secretary authorized by Congress solely to sign President's name to all land patents. Previously, the President personally affixed his signature to every land patent.

Act of March 2d granted public lands in Illinois for construction of railroad, converting use of lands previously granted for a canal. Railroad land grant never utilized. (See also: 1835, act of March 3d; 1836, Act of July 2d; 1850, Act of September 20th.)

1834 Auction sales of surveyed public lands regularly scheduled by all district land offices. Sales usually advertised locally, from three to 6 months in advance.

Act of June 30th granted two townships near Rock River, Illinois, to group of Polish exiles, banished by Emperor of Austria.

First district land office opened in Wisconsin, at Mineral Point.

1835 Act of March 3d granted public lands for construction of railroad in eastern Florida. Grant included 30 feet each side of rail line, use of timber on adjacent lands, and 10 acres at terminals. (See: 1850, Act of September 20th.)

1836 Act of July 2d granted public lands for construction of railroad by New Orleans and Nashville Railroad Co. Grant included easements for stations and other property, and use of adjacent timber as required for construction. (See: 1850, Act of September 20th.)

1836 Act of July 4th reorganized and expanded the operations of the General Land Office, but retained the existing field system of subordinate district land offices. Reorganization and expansion of the General Land Office was primarily an attempt to adjust to increasing work and to eliminate delays of several months in handling and processing of land transactions. Surveying became a new responsibility of the General Land Office, ending continual conflict with various Surveyors General. Under a Commissioner, the General Land Office was reorganized divisionally for: private land claims, public land claims, surveys, records, and adjudication. A recorder was authorized to certify and affix the seal of the General Land Office to all patents and similar documents. Also employed was a solicitor to perform judicial work. Retained for physically signing the President's name to all land patents was a secretary, who was replaced in 1878 by an executive clerk for the same purpose. Beginning in 1841, any appeals from decisions of the Commissioner were heard by the Secretary of the Treasury. (See: 1849, Act of March 3d.)

1837 On 25th Anniversary of founding of first organized system of public land management, there were 65 district land offices associated with the General Land Office.

1838 Surveying district including Iowa and Wisconsin established, and surveys begun.

First district land offices opened in Iowa, at Dubuque and Burlington.

1839 University of Missouri authorized. Opened to students in 1841. Became a land-grant institution in 1863.

1840 Population of United States: over 17 million.

1841 First immigrant wagon train for California, with 47 persons, left Independence, Missouri, on May 1st. Arrived at Stanislaus River, 6 months later.

1841 Act of September 4th—also known as Pre-emption Act of 1841—established further preferential rights to settlers and squatters on public lands, in event of conflicts evolving from sale of disputed lands. Under conditions of building a dwelling and settling, a claimant could buy up to 160 acres, at \$1.25 an acre. Act also granted 500,000 acres of public lands to each new State admitted to the Union for “internal improvements.” Act also reserved saline lands from entry; this was the first salt reservation of public lands. Act was repealed in 1891.

1842 East Florida Donation Act granted one quarter section of public lands in eastern Florida to any male who settled in hostile Indian part of State.

Armed Occupation Act granted 160 acres of public lands free to actual settlers, under prescribed circumstances. This act was forerunner of Homestead Act of 1862.

Military land warrants could be located on any vacant, unreserved public lands subject to sale.

1843 Increasing judicial duties retarded work of the General Land Office. Commissioner Blake complained officially that claims under previous British, Spanish, French, and Mexican grants as well as treaties with Indians were slowing all land transactions tremendously.

1844 First geological surveys of public lands initiated by the General Land Office, in Michigan. Similar surveys made in Wisconsin and Iowa during 1847; in Oregon and Washington during 1853; in Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming during 1857. All surveys performed under private contracts.

1845 Texas became a State, but retained title to all unoccupied lands. Thus, Texas was not a public-land State.

1846 Oregon Compromise settled British boundaries in far Northwest, providing United States with additional area of over 183 million acres of public lands—including present States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and western parts of Montana and Wyoming.

1846 First bill authorizing free public lands for homesteads introduced by Andrew Johnson, but defeated in Congress.

1847 Act of February 11th authorized land bounties for military service in Mexican War. Veteran could obtain grant for 160 acres of public lands at any district land office. Patents for more than 61 million acres of public lands subsequently issued to Mexican War and other veterans, most of which were sold cheaply and fell into the hands of land speculators. (See: 1850, Act of September 28th; 1855, Act of March 3d.)

Mormons first settled at Great Salt Lake, after long trek westward over part of Oregon Trail, following religious persecutions in Missouri and Illinois.

1848 Discovery of gold in California sparked rush of prospectors and miners, both amateur and professional, to the West. All claims made under local rules and miners' customs.

University of Wisconsin authorized. Opened to students in 1849. Became a land-grant institution in 1863.

Mexico ceded a vast territory in Southwest, providing United States with additional 338 million acres of public lands—including present States of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and portions of New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming.

1849 First district land office opened in Minnesota, at Stillwater.

Act of March 3d created the Department of the Interior, a new executive or cabinet-level Department concerned with domestic needs and internal affairs of the Nation. Originally known also as the Home Department, first organization composed of four bureaus: General Land Office, transferred from the Treasury Department; Department of Indian Affairs, transferred from the War Department; the Patent Office, transferred from the State Department; the Pension Office, transferred from the War Department. Act also created position of Secretary of the Interior, responsible for supervising four bureaus as well as Census Office, Office

1849 of Capitol Grounds, and charitable institutions in District of Columbia. Thomas Ewing, Ohio statesman, appointed first Secretary of the Interior, started operations with one chief clerk plus about 600 clerks transferred with 4 original bureaus. Since 1849, many other offices and bureaus were established in or transferred to the Department. Three other executive or cabinet-level departments—Agriculture, Labor, and Commerce—had their origins in the Department of the Interior.

General Land Office transferred from the Treasury Department to newly created Department of the Interior on March 3d. But there was no physical move by the General Land Office, which continued to occupy an upper story of the new Treasury Building in Washington for another 6 years. Organized according to functions, the General Land Office had nine main divisions: public lands, surveys, private land claims, military bounty lands, land sales, preemption claims, recording of patents, distribution of lands, and fiscal matters. Under new Department of the Interior, first Commissioner of the General Land Office was Justin Butterfield.

First grant of public lands for reclamation of swamplands, along Mississippi River in Louisiana. Swampland grants also made to Arkansas in 1850, to Minnesota and Oregon in 1860, and to other States at later dates. More than 64 million acres of swampland granted to various States.

First annual report of first Secretary of the Interior included recommendation for creating a Bureau of Agriculture, to continue work previously performed by an agricultural division of the Patent Office. Secretary Ewing also recommended construction of a railroad to the Pacific Ocean.

First public advocate of vocational colleges, supported by public lands, for higher training in agriculture and mechanical arts, was a Commissioner of the General Land Office. In his annual report of 1849, Commissioner Butterfield was the first to suggest publicly the use of part of the proceeds from sales of public lands to help establish and endow State agricultural colleges. This occurred nearly a year before Jonathan Turner, leading exponent of higher education in

1849 agriculture, first unveiled his famous plan for land-grant colleges. This occurred well over a year before Thomas Clemson, Ezra Cornell, and other leading educators endorsed the principle of land-grant colleges. And this occurred nearly a decade before Justin S. Morrill, Vermont Congressman, first considered a Land-Grant Act to aid and support agricultural colleges by the sale or lease of public lands granted free to each institute by the Government; this ultimately became the Morrill or Land-Grant Act of 1862.

1850 Population of United States: over 23 million.

First Federal timber agents appointed by Secretary of the Interior in effort to safeguard forests on public lands from trespass, illegal cutting, other depredations. Agents discontinued in 1855 for lack of funds.

Surveying district including Oregon and Washington established, and survey of Oregon begun. Washington became separate surveying district in 1854.

Oregon Donation Act granted as much as 320 acres to each single male, or 640 acres to husband and wife, on condition of settlement for 4 years in undeveloped parts of Oregon. Act later extended to include Washington. Act expired by limitation in 1855.

Purchase from Texas of a large area north and west of State, provided the United States with an additional 75 million acres of public lands.

Act of September 20th granted and authorized sale of public lands to Illinois Central Railroad for construction of a railroad between Chicago and Cairo, Illinois. Act also extended to Alabama and Mississippi in aid of Mobile and Ohio Railroad, connecting with the Illinois Central. Grant gave alternate sections of lands, 6 sections wide, on either side of rail lines and branches. Grant also included acreage for stations and property, and for construction of entire new town of Cairo, Illinois. Minimum sale price was \$2.50 an acre. (See: 1862, Act of July 1st.)

- 1850** Act of September 28th authorized military land bounties of 160 acres to any veteran of Indian Wars, War of 1812, or Mexican War. (See: 1855, Act of March 3d.)
- 1851** Patent of 160 acres issued to William T. Sherman for services as First Lieutenant during Indian Wars and Mexican War.
- Surveying district of California established, and survey begun.
- University of Minnesota authorized and opened to students. Became a land-grant institution in 1863.
- 1853** Gadsden Purchase of 19 million acres from Mexico, provided United States with additional public lands in southern Arizona and New Mexico.
- First district land offices opened in California, at Los Angeles and Benicia.
- Patent of 160 acres issued to Ulysses S. Grant for services as second lieutenant during Mexican War.
- Congress authorized individual private surveys of each of four principal land routes for future transcontinental railroad system.
- 1854** Surveying district including Kansas and Nebraska established, and survey of Kansas begun. Nebraska and Iowa combined in new surveying district in 1866.
- Price Graduation Act authorized periodic reduction in sale price of unsold public lands. If not sold initially at public auction, price determined by length of time on market. Act specified no limitation on acreage purchased, which lead to excessive speculation. Act repealed in 1862.
- New Mexico Territory Donation Act granted as much as 160 acres to every white male, who was resident of New Mexico prior to January 1853. For free grant, actual settlement and cultivation of tract required for four years. At option, grantee could purchase lands at \$1.25 an acre.

1854 First district land office opened in Washington, at Olympia.

1855 First district land office opened in Nebraska, at Omaha City.

Act of March 3d authorized military land bounties of 160 acres to any veteran of any war after 1790, and for service as little as 14 days. A year later, act extended to include veterans of Revolutionary War. Resulting flood of scrip proved a great boon to land speculation. Military land warrants sold for \$60 to \$75.

First district land offices opened in Oregon, at Winchester and Oregon City.

Patent of 40 acres of public lands issued to Abraham Lincoln for services as Captain, 4th Illinois Volunteers, during Black Hawk Indian Wars.

Protecting timber and safeguarding forests on public lands became additional duties of registers and receivers at all district land offices. And first circular, giving instructions on timber protection, issued by General Land Office. Due to press of regular duties as well as inexperience of personnel at most district land offices, this protection and conservation effort had limited success. In 1876, the General Land Office provided special timber agents for this service.

Michigan State University authorized and opened to students. Pennsylvania State University authorized; opened to students in 1859. Both universities became land-grant institutions in 1863.

Work of General Land Office over 4 years in arrears for lack of enough qualified clerical personnel, according to annual report of Commissioner Hendricks.

First of a series of Executive orders establishing specific Indian reservations.

Warrant for 160 acres issued to Jefferson Davis for services as colonel, Mississippi Rifles, during Mexican War. Never converted to land patent or deed.

1855 First district land office opened in Kansas, at Lecompton.

1856 Homestead Bill introduced by Galusha A. Grow, Pennsylvania member of House of Representatives, but bill died in committee.

Act of July 22d authorized construction of wagon road on public lands from Fort Ridgely, Minnesota, to South Pass of Rocky Mountains under supervision of the Department of the Interior. In 1857, additional construction of wagon roads authorized from Fort Kearney, Nebraska, to eastern boundary of California; from El Paso, Texas, to Fort Yuma, Arizona; from Fort Defiance, New Mexico, to the Colorado River—all subsequently completed under jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

University of Maryland authorized. Opened to students in 1859. Became a land-grant institution in 1864.

1857 Surveying district of Minnesota established, and survey begun.

1858 Homestead Bill proposed by Galusha A. Grow, Pennsylvania member of House of Representatives, but failed to pass.

First district land office opened in New Mexico, at Santa Fe.

Iowa State College authorized. Opened to students in 1859. Became a land-grant institution in 1862.

General Land Office reported a continuing backlog of transactions, despite a national slump in land sales. A profusion of private land claims had developed, especially since the Mexican cession. Proper adjudication of claims required knowledge of Spanish, and preponderance of patience. The resulting bulk of unfinished business included some private land claims filed 40 and 50 years previously.

1859 Most if not all of the entries under the Graduation Act of 1854 were made by unscrupulous individuals in direct contravention of law, according to Commissioner Hendricks of the General Land Office. He urged a suitable act of Congress to aid genuine settlers.

1860 Population of United States: over 31 million.

Patent of 160 acres of public lands issued to Abraham Lincoln for services as captain, Illinois Militia, during Black Hawk Indian Wars.

1861 Bureau of Agriculture first proposed, as a separate organization under the Department of the Interior, by Secretary of the Interior Caleb B. Smith. Proposed new bureau would extend previous work of an agricultural division of the Patent Office. (See: 1862, Department of Agriculture.)

Three surveying districts established for Colorado, the Dakotas, and Nevada. Survey of each region begun.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology authorized. Became a land-grant institute in 1863. Opened to students in 1865.

First district land office opened in southern part of the Dakotas, at Vermillion.

On eve of 50th Anniversary of founding of first organized system of public land management—and also eve of the Civil War—there were 85 district land offices associated with the General Land Office.

1862 Department of Agriculture created by Congress, as direct result of previous proposals and repeated insistence by Secretary of the Interior Caleb B. Smith, that a separate organization, concerned primarily with agriculture, was essential to a balanced Government. Department of Agriculture did not attain cabinet status until 1889, when Norman Jay Colman was appointed first Secretary of Agriculture.

The Homestead Act authorized unrestricted settlement on public lands to all settlers, requiring only residence, cultivation, and some improvement of a tract of 160 acres. Any person was eligible who was head of a family or had reached the age of 21, who was a citizen or intended to become one, and who did not own as much as 160 acres. After living on the land and farming it for 6 months, he could buy the

1862 homestead at \$1.25 an acre. But after 5 continuous years, he could apply for and receive a patent or title to the 160 acres for a filing fee of \$15. Originally passed by Congress on May 20th, the Homestead Act was later amended to increase area limitations under certain conditions. Subsequent liberalizations of the act were in accord with prevailing philosophy that public lands should be given free to bona fide farmers and stockmen, whose homesteads would ultimately become permanent settlements. While the once-vital act served its original purpose of stimulating settlement of the Nation, it was destined for an active life of only about 70 years—when there no longer were enough public lands suitable for homesteading and capable of supporting a farm family. (See also: 1863, The Homestead Act; 1877, Desert Land Act; 1902, The Reclamation Act; 1904, Kincaid Act; 1916, Stock-Raising Homestead Act.)

Act of July 1st granted extensive areas of public lands for construction, operation, and maintenance of transcontinental railroad and telegraph system between Missouri River and the Pacific Ocean. Granted to the Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroad Companies were lands for the right-of-way, alternate sections to a depth of 10 miles on each side of the line, plus additional lands for stations, shops, and other property—a cumulative total of more than 20 million acres. Some of the granted lands were sold to settlers as a means of developing future railroad business. Other settlers, following the lifeline of the railroad, migrated to alternate sections of public lands along the right-of-way, and purchased tracts up to 80 acres usually at speculative prices.

Morrill or Land Grant Act authorized grants of public lands to help establish and support designated State vocational colleges teaching agriculture and mechanical arts. This act of July 2d established a land grant system substantially the same as that first proposed in 1849 by Commissioner Butterfield of the General Land Office. Under the system, appropriate colleges and universities existing prior to 1862 could accept provisions of the act by individual State legislation, and were then known as land-grant institutions. As new colleges and universities accepted provisions of the act by State legislation, they also became land-grant institutions. Each State accepting the act was granted an acreage of public lands in proportion to representation in Congress. For States embracing substantial areas of public lands, the

1862 grants were made in those States. If there were too few or no acres of public lands in a State, indemnity scrip was issued for public lands in another State having such lands. Granted lands could be used in place. But usually, the lands were sold or leased for the benefit of the land-grant college or university. Act was later amended and extended. (See: 1890, Second Morrill Act; 1907, Act of March 14th.)

1863 The Homestead Act became effective on January 1st, the same day President Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation. During the next 70 years, the Homestead Act and its several amendments drew more than a million pioneers and settlers to the plains, prairies, and mountains of western America. But by the late 1930's, the hopes of many dwindled with disappointments and failures. The Nation was running out of available public lands suitable for homesteading and capable of supporting a farm family. Even in Alaska, unoccupied lands with agricultural potential were destined to be acquired by the State. By the 100th anniversary of the act, homesteading had become almost a thing of the past—a memorial to a great American tradition.

First district land office opened in Colorado, at Golden City.

University of Massachusetts and Kansas State University both authorized and opened as land-grant institutions.

1864 First district land office opened in Nevada, at Carson City.

Surveys of all Indian reservations became responsibility of the General Land Office.

1865 First report of petroleum on public lands was recorded by the register and receiver of the district land office at Humboldt, California. A few months later tracts believed to be valuable for such fuel minerals were withdrawn from any disposition. This was the first reservation of petroleum on public lands.

Oregon State College authorized and opened as land-grant institution. University of Maine and Cornell University authorized as land-grant institutions; and both opened to students in 1868.

1866 The Mining Act declared all mineral lands of the public domain free and open to exploration and occupation. Mineral surveying districts established by the General Land Office. Prospectors, after filing at nearest land office, could claim mineral vein or lode upon payment of \$5 an acre. (See also: 1870, Placer Mining Act; 1872, The Mining Act.)

University of New Hampshire authorized as land-grant institution. Opened to students in 1868.

1867 Act of March 2d created independent Department of Education. Transferred to the Department of the Interior in 1869, and renamed Office of Education. Transferred to Federal Security Agency in 1939.

Purchase of Alaska from Russia on June 20th, provided the United States with a vast territory—more than 365 million acres—of additional public lands.

First district land office opened in Montana, at Helena.

University of Illinois and West Virginia University authorized as land-grant institutions; both opened to students in 1868.

University of Delaware authorized as land-grant institution; opened to students in 1869.

Land transactions at district land offices increased tremendously after the Civil War, resulting in work overloads at the General Land Office. Delays of 4 or 5 years were common for routine processing and recording. Special work—such as adjudication of private land claims—required many additional months, often several more years.

1868 First district land office opened in Idaho, at Boise City.

University of California authorized as a land-grant institution. Opened to students in 1869.

First district land office opened in Utah, at Salt Lake City.

1869 First transcontinental railroad completed, at junction of Union Pacific and Central Pacific, Promontory Point, Utah, on May 10th.

Act of June 11th authorized first geological and geographical surveys in Rocky Mountain region, under jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

University of Nebraska authorized as a land-grant institution; opened to students in 1871. Purdue University authorized; opened in 1874

1870 First district land office opened in Arizona, at Prescott.

Survey of forest resources included for first time in national census of United States.

Population of United States: over 39 million.

Act of July 9th provided for survey and sale of placer mining lands at \$2.50 an acre. Also known as Placer Mining Act.

First district land office opened in North Dakota, at Pembina.

Ohio State University authorized as land-grant institution; opened to students in 1873. University of Florida authorized; opened in 1884.

First district land office opened in Wyoming, at Cheyenne.

1871 First congressional bill of comprehensive nature to reserve and protect forests on public domain proposed by Secretary of the Interior. Although bill failed to pass, it served to focus attention on need for timber conservation.

University of Arkansas authorized as land-grant institution; opened to students in 1873.

Alcorn University authorized and opened as land-grant institution in Mississippi. In 1878, renamed Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College. This was the first all-Negro land-grant institution. (See: 1890, Second Morrill Act.)

1872 First congressional appropriation specifically for the protection and conservation of timber on public lands by the Department of the Interior through the General Land Office. Previously, timber personnel had been paid out of receipts from seized timber unlawfully cut from forests on public lands.

Alabama Polytechnic Institute and Virginia Polytechnic Institute authorized and opened as land-grant institutions.

General Mining Law identified mineral lands as a distinct class of public lands subject to exploration, occupation, and purchase under stipulated conditions. Claims for metallic minerals on about 20 acres of public lands were filed under this act, which legalized the appropriation of such lands for mining purposes much in accordance with local procedures established during the California gold rush which, in turn, were based on earlier Spanish mining laws of the early Southwest. The act promoted private prospecting and development of metallic minerals on public lands by protecting private interests in mining claims. Under this act, all mineral lands were declared open to exploration and occupation, mining claims located on such lands were recognized and confirmed, and patents to such lands could be obtained from the Government. To obtain a patent for mining lands, it was necessary (1) to make a valid mineral discovery, (2) to invest \$100 in improvements annually for 5 years, (3) to pay for a boundary survey, and (4) apply for the surface area of the lands included by the boundary, at \$2.50 an acre for a placer mine, or at \$5.00 an acre for a lode mine.

First national park, created from lands of the public domain. Yellowstone National Park established near junction of boundaries of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

1873 Act of March 1st assigned to the Department of the Interior all territorial powers and duties previously performed by the State Department. Act applied to all organized territories, existing or later to be created.

Act of March 3d authorized the location and sale of lands chiefly valuable for coal deposits.

1873 University of Nevada authorized as land-grant institution. Opened to students in 1874.

Timber Culture Act granted tracts of public lands to settlers who planted and cared for trees on the plains. This was first legislation intended to encourage reforestation as a means of conservation. Less than an unqualified success, the act was repealed in 1891.

1874 Report of Franklin B. Hough Committee of American Association for Advancement of Science submitted to Congress. A detailed study of forestry, report emphasized value of timber stands, importance of forest lands in maintaining favorable water conditions, and need for withdrawing and protecting forests on public lands.

All geological and geographical surveys became responsibility of the Department of the Interior.

Louisiana State University authorized and opened as land-grant institution.

1877 Movement to create forest reservations spearheaded by Secretary of the Interior. Protection and conservation of timber on public lands assumed by special force of timber agents, supervised directly by Commissioner of the General Land Office. This was first official recognition of urgent need for conservation of natural resources.

Colorado State University authorized as land-grant institution. Opened to students in 1879.

Desert Land Act authorized disposition of 640-acre tract of arid public lands at \$1.25 an acre to homesteaders upon proof of reclamation of lands by irrigation. Difficulties of reclamation subsequently reflected by more than 10 relief acts by Congress to aid aspiring settlers. In 1891, area limitation was reduced to 320 acres of desert lands. (See: 1902, Reclamation Homestead Act.)

1878 Executive clerk authorized to sign the President's name on every land patent issued by the General Land Office. Prior to this time, a secretary had been designated for this work. Practice of signing President's name discontinued in 1948.

Timber and Stone Act authorized the negotiated sale of public lands especially valuable for either timber or stone, and otherwise unfit for cultivation. Act repealed in 1955.

Mississippi State University authorized as land-grant institution. Opened to students in 1880.

Bureau of Railroad Accounts established under the Department of the Interior for auditing accounts of certain land-grant railroads. Renamed Office of Commissioner of Railroads in 1882. Renamed Bureau of Railroads in 1894. Renamed Office of Railroad Affairs in 1896. Abolished in 1904.

1879 After extensive survey and study of lands and resources of the West, Major John W. Powell recommended to Congress the early revision of public land laws, which he characterized as antiquated and incongruous. Advocating classification of the various types of lands, he urged establishment of scientific system of survey and disposition for each of the land classes. He also recommended: a minimum farm unit or homestead of 2,560 acres in arid regions, communal pasturage districts without fences for homesteaders, and immediate measures for soil and water conservation in the West.

Act of March 3d established the Geological Survey as a bureau of the Department of the Interior. A basic research agency of the Government, the Geological Survey became responsible for: collecting information on the occurrence, distribution, and quantity of the Nation's vast water and mineral resources; classifying and appraising various types of the Nation's land surface; and presenting geologic, geographic, or other scientific information as specialized reports or topographic maps. In 1880, Major John W. Powell became director of the Geological Survey.

1879 Public Land Commission authorized by Congress to assess and solve specialized problems of land reform for the Nation's public lands. In its voluminous report a year later, the Commission recommended classification of public lands as arable, irrigable, pasturage, timber, and mineral. Repeal of all pre-emption laws and the Timber and Stone Act of 1878 was advocated. And the report emphasized the critical need for protection and conservation of forests on public lands. Report laid foundation for conservation and improved resource management.

1880 Population of United States: over 50 million.

Further pre-emption or preference rights allowed squatters and settlers on public lands, whether or not surveyed, with 12 to 33 months credit for previous residence on same tract of lands.

Office of National Parks established under the Department of the Interior. In 1916 became a separate bureau, and renamed National Park Service.

1881 Board of Law Review established within framework of the General Land Office to assist in judicial matters. Board of three members—Commissioner McFarland and two of his lawyers—provided legal guidance. Board discontinued after several years, when more legal personnel employed by the General Land Office.

University of Connecticut authorized and opened as land-grant institution. South Dakota State College authorized; opened to students in 1884.

1884 Bureau of Labor created within the Department of the Interior. Renamed Department of Labor and became independent Government agency, in 1888. Transferred to Department of Commerce and Labor, in 1903. Attained cabinet-level status as Department of Labor, in 1913.

1885 University of Arizona authorized as land-grant institution. Opened to students in 1891.

First district land office opened in Alaska, at Sitka.

1885 Act of February 25th gave further pre-emption or preference rights to settlers and squatters on public lands by making unlawful the use of any force, threats, or intimidation of settlers; or by fencing or enclosing to prevent or obstruct any settler from entering or establishing residence on any tract of public lands. Settlement could be made prior to land classification and survey.

1886 University of Wyoming authorized as land-grant institution. Opened to students in 1887.

1887 On 75th Anniversary of founding of the first organized system of public land management, there were 113 district land offices associated with the General Land Office.

North Carolina State College authorized as land-grant institution. Opened to students in 1889.

General Allotment Act accelerated diminution of Indian tribal lands by granting tracts to individual Indians. Remainder of tribal lands either opened for public settlement or sold for benefit of tribe. Mainly by this act, acreage of reserved Indian lands dropped from 138 million to about 50 million acres in 1934, when further diminution stopped.

Hatch Act provided funds for establishing agricultural experiment stations at land-grant institutions.

1888 University of Rhode Island and Utah State University authorized as land-grant institutions. Both opened to students in 1890.

Trespassing on Indian reservations forbidden, to minimize illegal cutting of timber as well as intimidation of Indians on such reservations.

1889 Opening to homesteaders of public land area in central part of Indian Territory, on April 22d. On signal at noon, thousands of settlers stampeded in a land "run" for choice tracts in new area, called Oklahoma Lands. First district land offices opened at Guthrie and Kingfisher. In years following, smaller "runs" took place in western part of territory, as Indians accepted allotments for their reservations, and areas of surveyed townships were declared open for settlement.

1889 New Mexico State University authorized as land-grant institution; opened to students in 1890. University of Idaho authorized; opened in 1892. Clemson Agricultural College authorized; opened in 1893.

1890 Population of United States: over 62 million.

A peak number of 123 district land offices in operation as field components of Federal system of land and resource management.

Second Morrill Act authorized permanent annual endowment to each land-grant college or university accepting the Land Grant Act of 1862. Endowment started at \$15,000 per year, and increased over ten-year period to \$25,000 per year. This act contained historic provision barring money from State institutions discriminating against Negroes. States in the South practicing segregation but which had equal but separate educational facilities were permitted equitable division of endowments between colleges for white and colored students. (See also: 1862, Morrill or Land Grant Act; 1907, Act of March 14th.)

Sequoia National Park, Yosemite National Park, and General Grant National Park established—all in California.

North Dakota Agricultural College and Oklahoma State University authorized as land-grant institutions; opened to students in 1891. Washington State University also authorized; opened in 1892.

Act of June 12th authorized cutting of green timber on Menominee Indian Reservation in Wisconsin. This was first Federal law regulating timber harvests on Indian lands.

1891 Due to increasing backlog in the General Land Office, Congress created Court of Private Land Claims to review and adjudicate validity of titles to United States lands which originated under another sovereignty—such as Spain, Mexico, France, England. Court dissolved in 1894, but adjudication and related work continued by the General Land Office for many years. Private land claims were mostly linked to lands in or adjacent to Louisiana, Arizona, New Mexico, and California.

1891 Act of March 3d decreased area limitation to 320 acres for homesteads under Desert Land Act of 1877. This act also repealed Timber Culture Act of 1873, and several pre-emption and general sales laws.

President authorized by Congress to withdraw and reserve public lands with forests, to assure protection of Federal timber lands and upland watershed areas. Care and conservation of such lands remained responsibility of Department of the Interior.

1892 Act of August 4th included under the General Mining Law all public lands valuable for building stone.

1893 Opening to homesteaders of public land area called Cherokee Outlet, in northern Oklahoma Territory, on September 16th. On signal at noon, about 150,000 settlers rushed into the unreserved area to stake their claims in surveyed townships. Handling the deluge of homestead entries were district land offices at Alva, Enid, Perry, Woodward.

Montana State College authorized and opened as land-grant institution.

1894 Cary Act authorized grants for reclamation of arid public lands. To encourage State as well as private irrigation efforts, the act offered certain States up to one million acres of arid public lands if occupying settlers would irrigate and cultivate the lands. Minimum size of tracts specified 160 acres, with at least 20 acres under cultivation. Act was unsuccessful, largely because States lacked technical knowledge of large-scale irrigation projects.

1896 Act of June 11th authorized long-term lease of 2,200 acres of public lands on island in the Missouri River to city of Bismarck, North Dakota, for recreation purposes. Endorsed by the Department of the Interior, this was first lease of large acreage for public outdoor recreation facilities.

1897 Act of June 4th assigned responsibility to the Department of the Interior for administration, conservation, and use of large areas of public lands with forests. Designated National Forest Reserves, these large forest areas were surveyed, protected, and managed by the General Land Office. Act also authorized mineral prospecting, location, and entry of mining claims on these forest lands.

Act of February 11th included under the placer mining law all public lands chiefly valuable for petroleum and other mineral oils.

First National Forest Reserve, designated the Yellowstone Park Timberland Reserve, under the control and management of the General Land Office.

1898 Annexation of Hawaiian Islands by the United States. Since Hawaii had been an independent nation, it had no public lands.

Principal public land laws extended to Territory of Alaska.

1899 Mount Rainier National Park established in central Washington.

1900 Population of United States: over 75 million.

Conservation movement propelled by President Theodore Roosevelt, who stated: "The forest and water problems are perhaps the most vital internal questions facing the United States."

Act of May 25th was first general law for protection of game birds and wildlife.

Act of June 6th granted up to 640 acres to every religious school and mission in occupancy of public lands in Alaska.

1901 Act of January 31st authorized the location and sale of saline lands under the mining laws.

Bureau of Forestry created in the Department of the Interior. (See: 1905, Act of February 1st.)

1902 Reclamation Act established system of water-development projects for the irrigation of arid lands and other purposes. Act also created a revolving fund, which was sustained by receipts from the sale and disposition of public lands in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Act also authorized homesteading on as much as 160 acres of arid public lands, provided lands were reclaimed through irrigation and cost of water paid by each homesteader.

Crater Lake National Park established in southwestern Oregon.

Division of Reclamation created within Geological Survey. Became Reclamation Service in 1907. Renamed Bureau of Reclamation in 1923. All status and name changes under the Department of the Interior.

1903 First Federal refuge for wildlife, Pelican Island Reservation, established in Florida by Department of the Interior.

Act of February 12th provided for assessments on petroleum mining claims under placer mining laws.

University of Puerto Rico authorized and opened as land-grant institution.

Public Lands Commission appointed by President Roosevelt to study and evaluate public land laws. Two years later, important recommendations of Commission included: need for lands reserved for livestock grazing, classification of public lands, repeal of Timber and Stone Act, and authorized sale of timber on unreserved public lands.

Wind Cave National Park established in South Dakota.

1904 Sullys Hill National Park established in North Dakota.

Kincaid Act increased area limitation to 640 acres for homesteads on nonirrigable arid public lands in the sand hills of western Nebraska.

1905 Act of February 1st transferred Bureau of Forestry and assigned all national forest reserves from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture. Bureau of Forestry renamed the Forest Service. But functions of surveying and administration of the mining and land laws on forest lands remained under management of the General Land Office of the Department of the Interior.

1906 All public lands valuable for deposits of coal withdrawn from entry by the Department of the Interior.

American Antiquities Act authorized the establishment of national monuments on Federal lands. Purpose was the preservation and protection of historic and natural landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other American antiquities.

Mesa Verde National Park established in southwestern Colorado.

Forest Homestead Act authorized limited homesteading on as much as 160 acres of public lands, classified for agriculture but located within a national forest. Few tracts were homesteaded under this act.

Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory combined to form State of Oklahoma.

First national monuments created at: Devils Tower, in Wyoming; Montezuma Castle and Petrified Forest, Arizona; El Morro, in New Mexico. Many other national monuments created in later years.

1907 Inland Waterways Commission appointed by President to make comprehensive study of navigable streams, flood control, irrigation, and protection of lands from soil erosion.

Act of March 1st authorized sale of public lands for use as cemeteries by religious groups, fraternal associations, and private companies.

Act of March 14th increased endowment to land-grant colleges and universities under Second Morrill Act of 1890. After initial grant of additional \$5,000, this amount increased during 20-year period to \$25,000 annually. Under both this act and the Second Morrill Act, the maximum financial endowment became \$50,000 annually for each land-grant institution. (See also: 1862, Morrill or Land Grant Act; 1890, Second Morrill Act.)

University of Hawaii authorized and opened as land-grant institution.

1909 Enlarged Homestead Act increased area limitation in western States to 320 acres of public lands, when classified as dry-farming lands and not susceptible to irrigation.

Act of March 3d authorized extensive resurveys of public lands at discretion of the Commissioner of the General Land Office. Act also authorized patents to homesteaders on public lands when such lands had potential coal value, but reserved mineral rights to the Government. A year later, act amended to open public lands having coal value to general entry.

1910 Population of United States: over 91 million.

Act of February 19th authorized President to withdraw and reserve areas of public lands for reclamation, irrigation, or powersite purposes. Sometimes known as the Pickett Act.

Act of June 25th authorized President to withdraw and reserve areas of public lands for any public purpose. (See: 1912, Act of August 24th.)

1910 Glacier National Park established in northwestern Montana.

Act of May 16th created Bureau of Mines under Department of the Interior. In 1925, bureau transferred to Department of Commerce. In 1934, transferred back to the Department of the Interior.

1912 Act of August 24th granted 12 sections of public lands in California to Luther Burbank for experiments in growing spineless cacti. But attempt failed, after several years.

On the centennial of its founding, the General Land Office continued its important functions associated with the administration, conservation, and use of the public lands and natural resources of the remaining public domain. Under Commissioner Dennett, about 530 persons were employed in the General Land Office, which occupied most of the Land Office Building—sometimes called the Old Post Office Building—in Washington, D.C. At 102 district land offices throughout the Nation were 415 office personnel plus 275 surveyors. Additional field service personnel brought the total employment to over 1,420 persons. Considerably expanded since its establishment 100 years earlier, the General Land Office administered a far more effective and modern system of public land and resource management for the Department of the Interior.

Act of August 24th, which amended the general withdrawal act of June 25th 1910, specified that all withdrawn lands would be open for exploration, discovery, and development of metalliferous minerals under the mining laws.

1913 Burnt Timber Act authorized sale and cutting of public lands timber which had been killed or damaged by fire.

Act of September 30th authorized the President to prescribe methods of opening areas of public lands for settlement, based on recommendations of the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

Office of the Territories of the Department of the Interior included only Alaska and Hawaii, after Arizona and New Mexico attained statehood.

1914 Act of July 17th allowed entry of mineral lands containing nitrate, phosphate, potash, oil, gas, and asphalt. But such minerals reserved to the Government.

Smith-Lever Act authorized land-grant colleges and universities to give agricultural instruction beyond boundaries of campus.

Alaskan Engineering Commission appointed by the President to investigate possible railroad routes and to monitor railroad construction in Alaska. In 1923, renamed The Alaska Railroad.

Act of October 20th provided for leasing of lands chiefly valuable for coal in Alaska.

1915 Rocky Mountain National Park established in Colorado.

1916 Stock-Raising Homestead Act increased area limitation for homesteading to 640 acres when public lands were suitable only for grazing livestock. Under this act, no cultivation of lands required, but some range improvements necessary. Repealed in 1934 by Taylor Grazing Act.

Chamberlain-Ferris Act provided for revestment to Government of title to lands remaining unsold and held by O&C (Oregon & California) Railroad. Lands originally granted for construction of railroad from northern boundary of California to Portland, Oregon. Administration of revested lands became responsibility of the General Land Office. (See: 1937, Act of August 28th.)

Hawaii National Park established on island of Maui, Hawaii. Also, Lassen Volcanic National Park established in California..

Act of August 25th created the National Park Service to administer park system consisting of national reservations, national monuments, and areas of historic or scientific significance. New National Park Service under the Department of the Interior.

1916 Act of September 7th authorized free use of 9,000-acre area of public lands near Helena, Montana, for outdoor recreation purposes. Same area sold to county concerned in 1950, but lands continued in use for public outdoor recreation.

1917 Mount McKinley National Park established in Alaska.

Act of October 2d included potash deposits among minerals subject to disposition under prospecting permits and leases.

Helium production undertaken at two experimental production plants near helium-bearing natural gas field in the Southwest, under Bureau of Mines. First small quantities of rare gas produced at research cost of about \$2,000 per cubic foot. Within 4 years, large-scale helium production lowered selling price to about \$525 per *thousand* cubic feet. (See: 1925, The Helium Act; 1937, Act of September 1st; 1960, Amendments to Helium Act.)

1919 Pittman Act fostered desert land reclamation in Nevada by allowing exploration for subsurface water on land entries of 2,560 acres. If enough water could be discovered to irrigate 20 acres, applicant obtained patent to homestead of 640 acres of public lands. Only three successful farm units were developed in the ensuing 42 years.

Acadia National Park established along coast of Maine. Zion National Park established in southern Utah. Grand Canyon National Park established in northern Arizona.

Undeveloped area of public lands in western Oregon, originally granted to Coos Bay Wagon Road Co. for construction of a military wagon road, reconveyed to the Government. Administration of these lands became responsibility of the General Land Office. (See: 1937, Act of August 28th.)

War Minerals Relief Act authorized reimbursement to mining operators of World War I for losses incurred in producing four war minerals—tungsten, chrome, manganese, and pyrites. To administer this act, a War Minerals Relief Commission created in the Department of the Interior, which continued to function aperiodically until 1914, when it was disbanded.

1920 Population of United States: over 105 million.

Federal Power Commission created to control and coordinate private development of hydroelectric power on public lands.

Mineral Leasing Act authorized Federal leasing of public lands for private extraction of oil, gas, coal, phosphate, sodium, and other minerals. Act assured orderly prospecting and exploration, and opportunity for conservation. Initially, prospecting permits issued for exploration of minerals. Then, if deposit found, successful prospector given preference for issuance of lease. Lessee paid annual rental plus graduated royalty on own mineral production. (See: 1935, Act of August 21st: 1947, Acquired Lands Leasing Act.)

1921 Hot Springs National Park established in Arkansas.

1922 General Exchange Act authorized exchange of tracts or areas of Federal lands for lands in private ownership, when lands to be exchanged were appraised at about equal value.

University of Alaska authorized and opened as land-grant institution.

Act of September 21st granted up to 160 acres of public lands to any religious organization conducting missions or schools on any Indian reservation.

Secretary of the Interior authorized to protect from fire, disease, and insects, all timber owned by Government on lands of national parks, Indian reservations, and lands under jurisdiction of the General Land Office.

1923 Alaska Railroad, originally authorized by Congress in 1914, placed under control and supervision of the Department of the Interior.

1924 Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge Act authorized acquisition of public lands for purposes of refuge and protection of wild birds, game animals, fur animals, and fish.

1924 A total of 84 district land offices supported the public land and resource management system of the General Land Office. In the following year, this total was reduced to 44 district land offices. Also in 1925, the positions of register and receiver were combined at each remaining land office.

1925 Patent Office, under the Department of the Interior since 1849, transferred to the Department of Commerce.

The Helium Act placed all development, production, and storage of helium under the Bureau of Mines. All quantities of the rare gas remained the exclusive monopoly of the Federal Government. Use of helium restricted to military and other Federal purposes, which excluded all commercial and non-Federal production, possession, and use of this gaseous element. (See: 1917, Helium production; 1937, Act of September 1st; 1960, Amendments to Helium Act.)

Acts of February 24th and March 3d granted use of specific areas of public lands for park and recreation purposes. Included were two unsurveyed islands in the Kalamazoo River to the City of Battle Creek, Michigan; 5,000 acres of the Angeles National Forest to Los Angeles County, California; and other, smaller land grants to various county and municipal governments in the United States. All grants specified land use for public outdoor recreation purposes.

1926 Unrecorded area of more than 11 million acres of public lands—more than twice the size of Massachusetts—discovered accidentally by clerks of General Land Office, but reported promptly to Congress by Commissioner Spry. Possession of public lands the Government didn't know it owned was due to an error in records, but emphasized need for modern calculating machine in the General Land Office.

Act of July 3d authorized leasing of public lands in Alaska for fur farming.

General Recreation Act encouraged petitions by State and county governments for use of tracts of public lands for public outdoor recreation purposes. Act authorized sale of lands for such purposes.

1927 Act of March 3d authorized issue of patents for as much as 5 acres of public lands in Alaska. Issued only to citizens of the United States, for use as homesite in Alaska. No survey of lands required. Act later amended and extended.

1928 Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge established on public lands adjacent to Great Salt Lake in Utah. An important migratory bird refuge.

Color of Title Act authorized discretionary issuance of patent to as much as 160 acres of public lands held in good faith but adverse possession for more than 20 years under claim or color of title. (See: 1953, Act of July 28th.)

A total of about 700 personnel were employed collectively at the General Land Office, at 29 district land offices, and in various field services—all related to public land and resource management.

Bryce Canyon National Park established in southwestern Utah.

Act of May 24th authorized indefinite leasing of tracts of public lands for use as small airfields, mainly in the West.

1929 Grand Teton National Park established in northwestern Wyoming.

1930 Population of United States: over 122 million.

Bureau of Pensions transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Veterans' Administration.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park established in North Carolina and Tennessee.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park established in southeastern New Mexico.

1931 Administrative government of Virgin Islands placed under the Department of the Interior.

1933 Act of March 31st created the CCC—Civilian Conservation Corps—to activate and advance a public works program of national rehabilitation and conservation work. The CCC furnished training and work for hundreds of thousands of unemployed young men during the depression era. Organized in camps of about 200 men, the CCC was charged with the care, development, and improvement of national lands and natural resources—using all practical means and methods of preservation and conservation. On all lands, they corrected soil erosion and water losses: by removing unwanted debris and deadwood, by building detention dams and diversion structures, and by reseeding and reforesting lands depleted of vegetation. In national parks, they improved all areas for public use: by marking trails and clearing paths, by planting millions of young trees, and by constructing campgrounds and other public facilities. In forest regions, they improved producing stands of timber: by clearing burned-over and damaged areas, by reforesting and building check dams to slow erosion, and by building roads and outdoor recreation facilities. Hacking through the underbrush and wilderness of all kinds of Federal lands, they built thousands of miles of truck trails and access roads—facilitating travel, reducing fire hazards, and improving the scenery. They constructed telephone systems, fire lookouts, and guard cabins. And they introduced measures to control insects and diseases endemic to parks and forests. Under jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, there were 175 CCC camps operating by the spring of 1934. Over a year later, there were about 400 camps—including 45 with the new Grazing Service, 2 in Wyoming with the General Land Office, 35 with the Bureau of Reclamation, and more than 300 with the National Park Service. A peak number of nearly 500 CCC camps under Department of the Interior jurisdiction was recorded early in 1940. Other hundreds of CCC camps were assigned exclusively to work in the national forests, under jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. And in addition, during every year of this CCC period, there were 71 camps of the CCC-Indian Division, each located at a different Indian reservation, giving employment to an average of nearly 10,000 Indian workers every year. By early 1941, however, the Nation had shifted to national defense work, jobs were more plentiful, and the CCC suffered

1933 rapid diminution. After it was transferred to the Federal Security Agency, the CCC was finally abolished in June 1942. But so lasting and significant were the many and varied conservation accomplishments of the CCC that, 20 years later, another President would recommend another, similar youth corps to again protect and preserve the heritage of the national lands and natural resources.

All national park activities consolidated under Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations—under the Department of the Interior. This brought under single management the existing National Park Service, National Capital Parks, national military parks and national monuments formerly administered by War Department, and national monuments formerly administered by Department of Agriculture.

Soil Erosion Service established as an activity of the Department of the Interior to initiate and administer erosion projects throughout the United States. In 1935, transferred to Department of Agriculture, and expanded and renamed Soil Conservation Service. (See: 1935, Soil Conservation Act.)

Division of Subsistence Homesteads created under the Department of the Interior to make loans and otherwise aid in purchase of subsistence homesteads under National Recovery Act. In 1935, function transferred to Rural Resettlement Administration.

Office of Adviser on Economic Status of Negroes created as staff activity of the Department of the Interior, the first activity of its kind by an executive department of the Government. Office was concerned with gradual integration of Negro citizens into recreational facilities of National Park Service and other field operations of the Department of the Interior, and with minimizing discrimination against Negro citizens in the Public Works Administration.

1934 Taylor Grazing Act introduced one of the most comprehensive conservation programs ever attempted for the public lands and resources of the Nation. Primary purpose of the act was to stop continuing injury to the public rangelands through overgrazing, soil deterioration, and other misuse of the natural resources of this vast area mainly in the West. All remaining unreserved and unappropriated public lands—chiefly in 10 western States, and excluding Alaska—were closed to indiscriminate settlement and use. Although reserved from transfer to private ownership, the lands remained open for staking mining claims and for public hunting, fishing, camping, and other outdoor recreation. The act authorized classification of the lands in order to assure proper usage, the exchange of lands of equivalent value between Government and State or private owners, and Federal procedures to improve, develop, and conserve the public lands. The act also authorized establishment of grazing districts—a total area of 80 million acres—for use of the livestock industry. Grazing permits were issued within each district. And isolated tracts not within a grazing district were leasable, with preference given to adjacent or nearby landowners in the stockraising business. Because of its reserved and preferential property status during subsequent years, this vast area of public lands became known as the national land reserve. (See: 1936, Act of June 26th.)

Division of Grazing formed within the Department of the Interior to administer various grazing districts established under the Taylor Grazing Act. In 1939, renamed the Grazing Service.

General Land Office administered grazing leases on public lands outside of grazing districts and other land transfers under the Taylor Grazing Act.

All remaining public lands withdrawn from sale prior to classification.

Coordination Act authorized and encouraged direct cooperation between Federal, State, county, and municipal governments in matters relating to conservation of wildlife. Act subsequently amended and extended several times. In 1958, title changed to: Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

1934 Division of Territories and Island Possessions created within the Department of the Interior for administrative purposes. In 1951, renamed Office of Territories. (See: 1873, Act of March 1st.)

Scope of public land sales enlarged to include "rough and mountainous tracts" not necessarily isolated, with preferential purchasing rights to owners of adjacent lands.

Indian Reorganization Act stopped further fragmentation of Indian reservations, and authorized tribal governments with Indians encouraged to keep and farm their own lands. General Land Office became responsible for administration of forests on Indian reservations to assure sustained yield management of timber resources.

Bureau of Mines, originally created under the Department of the Interior in 1910 and transferred to the Department of Commerce in 1925, returned to the Department of the Interior.

Minimum sale price of \$1.25 an acre generally abandoned for public lands at auction. Lands to be sold were appraised prior to sale, and this became minimum price for auction purposes. Minimum price of \$1.25 an acre retained for minor transactions, including commutation of homestead entries.

1935 Act of August 21st, which amended the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, established leasing policy for oil and gas that reduced speculative operations and returned proceeds of mineral development to State of mineral origin. Only helium reserved for exclusive exploitation by Federal Government.

Soil Conservation Act recognized soil erosion as a menace to national welfare. Act established the Soil Conservation Service for the control and prevention of soil erosion, the preservation of natural resources, and the protection and conservation of lands. Service under the Department of Agriculture.

1935 Bituminous Coal Conservation Act authorized creation of National Bituminous Coal Commission, under Department of the Interior, to establish minimum prices for coal resources. Disbanded in 1937.

Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration created within the Department of the Interior to administer public works program for Puerto Rico. Administration abolished in 1949

The Connally Act supported conservation activities of oil-producing States by prohibiting interstate shipment of oil produced in violation of certain State oil and gas conservation laws. The act was administered by the Federal Petroleum Board under direction of the Geological Survey.

Shenandoah National Park established in Virginia.

Colonization of Matanuska Valley initiated by Government in effort to advance settlement of Alaska. Carefully selected farm families were assisted by the Government in establishing farms and homes in the region.

Bankhead-Jones Act authorized financial endowments to land-grant institutions in all States, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Historic Sites Act authorized preservation by the Government of historic buildings, grounds, and sites of national significance.

1936 Mammoth Cave National Park established in Kentucky.

Act of March 19th memorialized the Homestead National Monument, near Beatrice, Nebraska. This was a typical, early homestead, that was purchased and rehabilitated by the Government. Known as the Homestead National Monument.

Act of June 26th increased the area limitation of combined grazing districts to 142 million acres. (See: 1934, Taylor Grazing Act.)

1936 Petroleum Conservation Division created under the Department of the Interior. Replaced by Oil and Gas Division, in 1946. Later renamed Office of Oil and Gas.

1937 Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (title III) authorized Federal purchase of privately owned farmlands. Known as Land Utilization projects, these submarginal lands were incapable of producing sufficient income to support the family of each farm owner. Owner and family were relocated elsewhere, and the submarginal lands retired from agricultural production. Various tracts were then added piecemeal—at various times during ensuing 25 years—to national parks, national forests, grazing districts, or reserved for other purposes. About 2 million acres—scattered through Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming, and other States—later transferred to jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, and subsequently administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Bonneville Power Administration created under the Department of the Interior to coordinate and supervise the first Federal hydroelectric development on Columbia River—to make low-cost power available to the Pacific Northwest.

Act of May 27th curbed speculation in public lands adjacent to Grand Coulee Dam in State of Washington by permitting acquisition of property at appraised values prior to completion of reclamation project.

Act of August 28th authorized and promulgated the first comprehensive program for timber conservation and production through sustained yield management of forests on O&C lands of western Oregon. Area included revested (Oregon & California Railroad) lands and reconveyed (Coos Bay Wagon Road Company) lands—about 2,681,000 acres of forest. Under control and administration of the General Land Office, the extensive program embraced: development and improvement of the lands on a continuing basis, care and conservation of forest resources, and utilization of lands and resources to obtain the highest financial return consistent with sound forest management. As a subsequent result of this continuing program, the O&C lands provided annual crops of more than a billion board feet of timber.

1937 Act of September 1st, which amended the Helium Act of 1925, authorized for the first time the sale by Government of helium gas for medical, scientific, and commercial purposes not connected with national defense. All known helium-bearing gas resources concentrated in the Southwest, and probably the world supply. These and all helium storage facilities were owned and operated exclusively by the Department of the Interior. Cost of helium in 1937 was \$12 per *thousand* cubic feet. (See: 1917, Helium production; 1925, The Helium Act; 1960, Amendments to Helium Act.)

1938 Small Tract Act authorized sale or lease to United States citizens of tracts not exceeding 5 acres of public lands, for use as home, cabin, camp, recreation, or business sites. Mineral rights were reserved by Government.

Olympic National Park established in State of Washington.

Departmental museum permanently established in main building of the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

Office of Director of Forests created as staff activity of the Department of the Interior to promote unified departmental policy of forest conservation. Office abolished in 1940.

Pierce Act authorized lease of State, county, or private lands within grazing districts which are chiefly valuable for grazing. Permits were issued to qualified applicants. Lands thus assured protection under Taylor Grazing Act of 1934.

Case-Wheeler Act authorized extensive water conservation and utilization projects by the Department of the Interior to help rehabilitate and stabilize agricultural areas of the Great Plains and elsewhere in the West, where critical droughts and water shortages had disrupted the economy of these areas during the previous decade.

1939 First congressional appropriation specifically for the prevention and suppression of fires on public lands of Alaska by the Alaska Fire Control Service of the General Land Office.

1939 Office of Education, originally established under the Department of the Interior in 1867, transferred to Federal Security Agency.

Reclamation Project Act authorized extensive programs for irrigation, drainage, and other reclamation of lands.

Bureau of Fisheries of Department of Commerce and Bureau of Biological Survey of Department of Agriculture transferred to the Department of the Interior.

Amendment to Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 made the advisory board system, originated by the Department of the Interior as a medium for advice and cooperation, an integral part of the administration of grazing districts.

Reorganization Act abolished position of Recorder of the General Land Office, and his duties—mainly countersigning land patents—assumed by Chief of Patents Division of General Land Office.

Range Development Service established by the General Land Office to implement range improvement programs on public lands outside grazing districts.

1940 Population of United States: over 131 million.

Office of Land Utilization created as staff activity of the Department of the Interior to coordinate work of all bureaus concerned with land and resource management. Reorganized and renamed Division of Land Utilization in 1950. Functions transferred to new Office of Public Land Management in 1953.

Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act protected public land rights of persons serving in Armed Forces for the duration of the national emergency plus 6 months. Blanket protection afforded grazing lessees, homesteaders, and others.

Kings Canyon National Park established in California.

1940 Activities of the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture pertaining to soil and moisture conservation on lands of the Interior Department transferred to General Land Office of the Department of the Interior. The Soil Conservation Service had been originally founded by the Department of the Interior in 1933, and transferred in 1935 to the Department of Agriculture.

Fish and Wildlife Service created by consolidating Bureau of Fisheries and Bureau of Biological Survey. Service remained under jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior. Various charitable institutions, under supervision of the Department of the Interior since 1849, transferred to Federal Security Agency. Institutions included: St. Elizabeths Hospital, Freedmen's Hospital, Columbia Institution for the Deaf, and Howard University. All in the District of Columbia.

Transportation Act afforded opportunity for some railroads to increase rates for passenger and freight traffic, providing they released all claims to earlier land grants by the Government. More than 70 land-grant claim releases were presented and approved, resulting in subsequent restoration of about 8 million acres of lands to Federal ownership. This ended a 90-year era in which vast tracts of public lands were granted by Congress for the promotion of new railroad construction. During this 90-year era, more than 75 land grants were made, aggregating over 158 million acres of public lands, and resulting in 21,500 miles of trackage forming an important transcontinental transportation network of the United States. (See: 1850, Act of September 20th; 1862, Act of July 1st.)

1941 Over 7 million acres of public lands withdrawn by the General Land Office for military and other uses pertaining to national defense preparedness.

Division of Power created as staff element of the Department of the Interior to coordinate all power production activities of the Department. Renamed Division of Water and Power in 1950, with additional responsibilities for irrigation and reclamation programs. In 1954 became Office of Water and Power Development of the Department of the Interior.

1941 Large numbers of township plats and other maps provided various defense agencies by the General Land Office and the Geological Survey. For many parts of the United States, the only such map data were in custody of the Department of the Interior.

Headquarters of the Grazing Service moved from Washington, D.C. to Salt Lake City, Utah.

Coal Mine Inspection Act initiated systematic inspections of coal mines by inspectors of the Bureau of Mines, the Department of the Interior. (See: 1943, Coal Mines Administration.)

War Resources Council created as staff activity of the Department of the Interior to initiate and develop a war program for mobilizing strategic natural resources of the Nation.

1942 Extensive withdrawals of public lands for military and defense use effected by the General Land Office by special authorization of the President. Withdrawals included lands for aerial bombing ranges, antiaircraft fields, combat training areas, artillery practice grounds, air navigation sites, flying schools, ammunition storage, ordnance depots, and other facilities. More than 7 million acres withdrawn during year, making an aggregate for 2 years of more than 13 million acres of public lands for military and defense use. Small airfields previously leased to private lessees by the General Land Office were acquired, with other lands, by the War Department.

Office of Solid Fuels Coordination created as staff activity of the Department of the Interior for control and coordination of the distribution of bituminous coal, anthracite, coke, and other solid fuels. Later in 1942, renamed Office of Solid Fuels Coordinator for War. In 1943, reorganized and renamed Solid Fuels Administration for War. When Government controls on the distribution of solid fuels were lifted in 1947, the Office was abolished.

1943 Coal Mines Administration created by the Secretary of the Interior as a special staff office to administer the Nation's strikebound coal mining industry. After taking possession of about 3,300 nonoperating pits, the Administration restored and maintained full coal production essential to successful prosecution of the war. A year after seizing the mines, all were returned to the rightful owners.

Southwestern Power Administration created under the Department of the Interior.

Largest amounts of money ever offered the Federal Government for the privilege of drilling for oil, and for drilling on 1 acre of public lands, were recorded in the same year for lands in the Elk Basin oil and gas field in Wyoming. In August 1943, a bid of \$5,800 smashed all previous high offers for 1-acre drilling rights. Three months later, a bid of more than \$26,000 set a new world's record, to date, for peak price per acre of Government oil lands. (See: 1959, Highest recorded price for Outer Continental Shelf.)

Civilian Public Service Camps became administrative responsibility of the Department of the Interior, which benefitted directly from work performed by members of each camp. At peak of 4-year program of the Selective Service System, there were 1,800 men in 11 camps on lands of the Department of the Interior, scattered throughout the United States. Under civilian direction, these Civilian Public Service Camps provided work of national importance: the protection and conservation of public lands and natural resources. Every camp was populated by men who, by reason of religious training or belief, conscientiously opposed participation in the war.

Cost of helium dropped to lowest selling price: \$5.35 per *thousand* cubic feet, with all known sources and storage of helium controlled by the Government. (See: 1917, Helium production; 1925, The Helium Act; 1937, Act of September 1st; 1960, Amendments to Helium Act.)

1944 Sustained Yield Act authorized cooperative agreements between the Government and private logging firms in order to achieve long-term sustained yield of timber. But only one such agreement ever consummated.

Big Bend National Park established in Texas.

War Relocation Authority, originally an independent agency, transferred to the Department of the Interior. Responsible for permanent relocation and resettlement of 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry.

Surplus Property Act authorized disposition of surplus acquired lands by any Federal activity.

1945 Public lands containing radioactive minerals withdrawn from sale or lease. In 1946, such lands could be patented, but Government retained rights to all radioactive mineral deposits.

Act of July 14th extended the Small Tract Act of 1938 to include sale or lease of such sites in Alaska.

1946 Bureau of Land Management created within the Department of the Interior, on July 16th. The new bureau became successor to both the General Land Office (founded in 1812) and the Grazing Service (founded in 1934). Responsibilities, functions, and personnel of both organizations were combined and transferred to the new Bureau of Land Management.

Oil and Gas Division established under the Department of the Interior to unify policies and coordinate functions pertaining to Federal petroleum activities. In 1955, renamed Office of Oil and Gas.

1947 Materials Act authorized disposition by the Federal Government of vegetative and mineral materials not otherwise expressly authorized or prohibited by Federal law. For the first time, this act made it legally possible for the Government to sell timber or other resources or materials on public lands without also transferring title to such public lands. Act amended in 1955 to embrace sand, gravel, stone, and other common minerals. (See: 1955, Act of July 23rd.)

1947 Acquired Lands Leasing Act authorized the issue of leases and permits for oil, gas, and other mineral resources on lands acquired by the Government.

Forest Pest Control Act provided for the protection of timber against destructive insects and diseases.

Act of July 25th created the Office of Geography under the Department of the Interior. Conjointly with the Board on Geographic Names, the Office of Geography performed research and other staff functions pertaining to standardization of geographic names for use by entire Federal Government. The Board on Geographic Names was the central authority for standardization in order to eliminate duplication of identical effort by various Federal departments and agencies. The Board was composed of representatives of the Departments of the Interior, State, Army, Navy, Air Force, Agriculture, Post Office, and Commerce; and also the Government Printing Office, the Library of Congress, and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Everglades National Park established in Florida.

1948 Revested O&C (Oregon & California Railroad) lands opened to exploration, location, entry, and disposition under the general mining laws. In all issued mineral patents, surface and surface resources retained in public ownership.

Elimination of President's signature on all land patents. Since 1833, the President's name had been written on every land patent by an authorized secretary or executive clerk. Prior to 1833, the President personally signed each land patent before issuance by the General Land Office.

Lea Act authorized direct cooperation between the Department of the Interior and the State of California in the management, control, and conservation of migratory waterfowl and other wildlife of that State.

1948 Alaska Housing Act led to improved living conditions in Alaska by relieving the very poor housing situation prevalent in that State. Act revised regulations of Federal Housing Administration for better adaptation to local conditions, and also authorized an appropriation of \$15 million for use of Alaska Housing Authority in construction of dwellings for rental purposes.

Mineral leases issued by the Bureau of Land Management for extraction and development of phosphate from low-grade ores.

1949 Act of June 21st provided for temporary deferment of assessment work on mining claims in certain contingencies. Other, similar acts suspending assessment work were subsequently enacted with great regularity.

Act of August 24th authorized \$70 million program of public works in Alaska. Under this act, the Government provided grants ranging between 25 and 75 percent of cost of essential community facilities—such as schools, water-works, sewers, etc.—initially sponsored by local governments, incorporated municipalities, or the Territory of Alaska. Upon completion, the sponsoring activity assumed ownership, and operated and maintained the facilities.

Alaska Land Sales Act authorized sale of tracts of public lands previously classified for industrial or commercial use. Tracts could not exceed 160 acres, and lands were sold at public auction. This act supplemented other legislation for disposition of public lands, and was major measure in Alaska's development program.

1950 Population of United States: over 150 million.

Southeastern Power Administration created under the Department of the Interior.

The Defense Production Act accelerated the mobilization of strategic types of industrial resources, and established for each major type an appropriately named defense agency. Alined with traditional duties of the Department of the Interior, five new defense agencies or administrations were activated in Washington, D.C., as organizational elements of the Interior Department. All agencies were responsible for expediting and controlling industries to assure a supply

of resources sufficient to satisfy urgent military and defense needs. Defense agencies established within the Department of the Interior:

§ *Petroleum Administration for Defense*. Established in October 1950, the agency was required to overcome critically severe shortages of high-octane aviation gasoline, all grades of crude oil, and fuel minerals for making synthetic rubber. In April 1954, when the agency was abolished, its residual work was transferred to the Oil and Gas Division of the Department of the Interior.

§ *Defense Solid Fuels Administration*. Established in December 1950, this agency controlled and coordinated all solid-fuel industries in order to develop maximum increases in the production of coal, coke, and coal chemicals. When the agency closed in June 1954, all work remaining was assumed by the Bureau of Mines of the Department of the Interior.

§ *Defense Electric Power Administration*. Established in December 1950, the agency's task of national mobilization involved about 4,000 private and public power utilities, including rural cooperatives. After the defense agency was abolished in June 1953, further future activities in electric power administration—mainly planning for later mobilization—were performed by any of various staff members of the Secretary of the Interior usually for the Office of Civilian and Defense Mobilization.

§ *Defense Fisheries Administration*. Established in December 1950 and staffed by resource specialists of the Fish and Wildlife Service, this defense agency handled priority materials required to meet defense needs for fishery commodities. Agency closed in 1952.

§ *Defense Minerals Administration*. Established in December 1950, this defense agency was staffed by expert personnel drawn from the Bureau of Mines and from the Geological Survey. Agency was primarily responsible for supervising the domestic minerals exploration program, which provided financial assistance to miners and prospectors for exploration purposes, thus obtaining critical types of mineral resources for the national defense effort. Agency's name was changed in 1952 to the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration, but the established program of financial aid to private enterprise continued until June 1958—when staff and functions were transferred to the newly established *Office of Minerals Exploration* of the Department of the Interior. (See: 1958, Office of Minerals Exploration.)

1951 Inventory of withdrawals and reservations of public lands in Alaska initiated by the Bureau of Land Management.

1952 Office of Saline Water established in the Department of the Interior to spearhead a Federal-industrial program for developing economical, high-volume methods of producing fresh, potable water—by desalting water from the sea, and by converting inland brackish water. The program had three phases: laboratory research of many known conversion methods, experimentation with small pilot plants, and construction and operation of large demonstration plants. (See: 1958, Act of September 2d.)

1953 Submerged Lands Act quitclaimed to several States the submerged lands lying between tidelands and historic boundaries of respective States.

Act of July 28th amended and simplified the Color of Title Act of 1928. Under the new act, patents could be issued for claims of long standing, without reservation of minerals to Government. A tract of as much as 160 acres of lands held in good faith but adverse possession for a period from prior to January 1, 1901, continuously until date of application was entitled to patent, provided tax payments were made on the lands during this entire period.

Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act authorized issue of permits and leases for the exploration and production of mineral resources on federally owned submerged lands of the Outer Continental Shelf.

1954 Recreation and Public Purposes Act, which amended and extended the General Recreation Act of 1926, pertained to disposition of public lands for outdoor recreation and other public purposes. New Act authorized lease or sale of as much as 640 acres of public lands in any 1 year to any State, county, or local government, or to a nonprofit corporation or association. Lands could be used for outdoor recreation or other public purposes.

Small Watershed Act authorized cooperation between the Department of the Interior and various State and local governments in the planning and development of watershed programs for soil and water conservation.

1954 Amendment to Small Tract Act of 1938 extended provisions of the act to unsurveyed public lands and to O&C lands. Act also permitted the sale or lease of small tracts to corporations, associations, and governmental units as well as to individuals.

Act of August 13th amending the general mining laws and the mineral leasing laws in order to permit the multiple development of all minerals, both locatable and leasable, on the same tract of lands.

Act of September 3d authorized the Department of the Interior to issue leases, permits, or easements to public agencies for the construction and maintenance of public works on lands administered by the Department of the Interior.

1955 Timber and Stone Act repealed.

Act of July 23d—also known as the Multiple Surface Use Act—was essentially a conservation amendment to the general mining laws, since it allowed for multiple use of both the surface and subsurface of the same tracts of public lands. The act prevented mining claims from being either staked or used for nonmining purposes; it also prevented timber waste on unpatented mining claims. Under this act, the Government was authorized to manage the surface resources, including timber and forage, of all unpatented mining claims staked after passage of the act. On mining claims previously staked, the Government could acquire rights to surface resources by means of legal procedure. Also under this act, common varieties of minerals—such as sand and gravel—were excluded by the mining laws, and placed under jurisdiction of the Materials Act of 1947. As a result, sand and gravel were no longer valid for staking and using lands under the mining laws, and were subsequently sold by competitive bids under the Materials Act.

Act of August 5th directed the recording of all outstanding scrip, private lieu selections, and similar rights to tracts of public lands, which were originally conferred by the Government as bounties—principally for military services during the 19th Century. The ensuing 2-year period of recordation was the first such inventory and registration of outstanding public land obligations of the Government. During this period, a total of 481 items of scrip—representing about 17,000 acres of public lands—was recorded.

1955 Act of August 11th (Public Law 357) provided for entry and location under the mining laws of uranium and other fissionable source materials on public lands classified or known to be valuable for deposits of lignite coal. These uraniferous lignite deposits were mainly in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Act of August 11th (Public Law 359) provided for entry and location under the mining laws of mineral resources on a total of more than 7 million acres of public lands—scattered throughout 23 States and Alaska. These were lands which had originally been withdrawn, more than 40 years previously, for use as power and water sites.

Office of Minerals Mobilization created in the Department of the Interior to coordinate and accomplish national defense preparedness measures relating to mineral resources, as delegated by the Office of Defense Mobilization.

1956 On 10th Anniversary of the Bureau of Land Management, there were 2,267 persons employed, of which nearly 90 percent were in field offices. Five major activities—lands, minerals, range, forestry, and engineering—constituted the basic system of public land and resource management.

Act of July 30th authorized 3-year suspension of requirements for occupancy and cultivation of tracts under the homestead laws. Moratorium necessary because of widespread hardships involved in homesteading various areas and regions of public lands.

Fish and Wildlife Act established United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior. Under a Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, the Service consisted of two elements: the Bureau of Commerical Fisheries and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

1957 Nondiscrimination clause included in every patent issued under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1954. Clause prohibited discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin on any lands obtained under the act. Penalty for violation was loss of the land.

1957 Act of August 12th repealed State maximum limitation of 5,120 acres for all phosphate leases held by any person, association, or corporation. National maximum limitation of 10,240 acres retained for entire United States.

Oil field of considerable size discovered on Kenai Peninsula near Anchorage, Alaska, in July 1957. Discovery followed by a year-long flood of filings for oil leases, totalling about 28 million acres.

1958 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act extended, amended, and changed the title of the Coordination Act of 1934. The new act authorized the Secretary of the Interior to make surveys and investigations of public lands or other Federal lands suitable for wildlife conservation. Act also authorized acceptance of donations of lands or funds in furtherance of wildlife conservation.

Engle Act limited withdrawals of public lands for military purposes to not more than 5,000 acres, except by specific congressional action. Act also provided for increased use and conservation of wildlife resources on lands within military reservations.

Conservation safeguards instituted by the Secretary of the Interior for oil and gas leasing on public lands reserved for wildlife resource conservation.

National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission created to study, analyze, and evaluate present and future requirements for public outdoor recreation. Final report of Commission due in 1962.

Program initiated in Alaska by the Bureau of Land Management for equipping and training *smokejumpers*—skilled forest firefighters, who parachuted into isolated areas to control and suppress fires. Within a year, 15 seasoned smokejumpers were in action in Alaska.

1958 Act of September 2d was \$10 million congressional appropriation to the Department of the Interior for construction and operation of five high-capacity demonstration plants for saline water conversion. Producing fresh, potable water from the sea were three plants—two of which had a capacity of a million gallons daily. Producing fresh, potable water by treatment of inland brackish water were two plants—each with a capacity of 250,000 gallons daily. Demonstration plants were last phase of a three-phase Federal-industrial development program supervised by the Office of Saline Water of the Department of the Interior. (See: 1952, Office of Saline Water.)

Office of Minerals Exploration established in the Department of the Interior, successor to the former Defense Minerals Exploration Administration. The new Office of Minerals Exploration supervised a Federal program of financial assistance in the continuing exploration for certain mineral resources, exclusive of organic fuels. Under the program, the Government contributed 50 percent of exploration costs, with a limit of \$250,000 on any one contract. Mineral resources eligible for financial assistance program were: antimony, asbestos (strategic), bauxite, beryl, cadmium, chromite, cobalt, columbium, copper, corundum, diamond (industrial), fluorspar, graphite (crucible flake), kyanite (strategic), lead, manganese, mercury, mica (strategic), molybdenum, monazite, nickel, platinum group metals, quartz crystal (piezoelectric), rare earths, rutile-brookite, selenium, talc (block steatite), tantalum, thorium, tin, uranium, and zinc.

Act of June 30th endorsed Statehood for Alaska. Enabling Act included Federal grant of about 104 million acres of public lands within boundaries of Alaska, to be selected by the State government during the ensuing 25 years.

1959 Alaska formally admitted to the Union on January 3, the last public land State.

Amendment to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1954 extended to the O&C lands all land-leasing provisions of the original act. Another amendment, in 1960, liberalized acreage limitations for public lands transferred principally for State park and other outdoor recreation and public purposes.

1959 Hawaii formally became a State on August 21st. Composed mainly of lands in private ownership, Hawaii was not a public land State.

Highest recorded price for privilege of drilling for oil on 1 acre of public lands on the Outer Continental Shelf was bid of \$10,442 *per acre* for submerged lands in the South Pass area off the coast of Louisiana. (See: 1943, Largest amounts of money.)

Oil Import Administration established within the Department of the Interior to implement and monitor the Federal oil import program. Oil Import Appeals Board also created in 1959, to consider petitions of those adversely affected by Federal oil import program.

1960 Population of the United States: over 179 million.

Public Lands Administration Act initiated program to improve efficiency of the administration of public lands. Act authorized studies and investigations, cooperative agreements, modernization of fees required as service charges, rehabilitation of lands damaged by defaulting timber purchasers, charging road users for proportionate cost of maintaining roads, and the acceptance of money, services, or property for the improvement of public lands.

Act of March 18th authorized the locating and patenting of mill sites adjoining placer mining claims.

Amendment to Mineral Leasing Act increased rental rates, extended terms of leases, and increased acreage limitations.

National Forest Multiple Use Act established congressional policy of multiple use of forest resources, and management of forest lands on a sustained yield basis.

Total area of Indian reservations about 57 million acres, with a peak number of 250 individual reservations. Gradual increase during previous 25 years due to continuing acquisition of federally owned public lands as well as lands in private ownership.

1960 Act of September 6th provided for the conservation of forest lands within reservoir areas administered by Secretary of the Army.

First extensive construction of major recreational facilities on public lands outside Alaska by Bureau of Land Management. Camping, hiking, picnic, and other facilities installed at eight recreation sites on O&C lands on western Oregon.

Amendments to Helium Act of 1925 introduced conservation program and increased helium responsibilities of the Department of the Interior. Program authorized purchase and storage of helium obtained from extraction plants built and operated by industry in conjunction with interstate pipelines carrying natural gas. Also authorized acquisition of all lands containing helium-bearing gas in order to assure future supply. Supplementing established helium sources in the Kansas-Oklahoma-Texas region, two large areas of public lands in Utah reserved but not developed for helium production. (See: 1917, Helium production; 1925, The Helium Act; 1937, Act of September 1st.)

1961 Moratorium on new applications and petitions for non-mineral public lands, for 18-month period ending in September 1962. Suspension necessary because of deluge of thousands of nonmineral applications instigated by unethical land locators and land promoters. Moratorium allowed time for the Bureau of Land Management to eliminate backlogs of long-pending land transactions, inventory and classify public lands, and develop stronger policies and programs for more intensive land and resource management.

Nationwide inventory and classification program for all public lands inaugurated by the Bureau of Land Management. System of "master unit" classification established to record residual transfers of lands. Completion of program allowed needed tenure adjustments, and provided sound basis for sustained management of public lands and resources.

Antispeculation regulations rigidly enforced by the Bureau of Land Management for more selective disposition of public lands. All transfers out of Federal ownership required to serve the public interest. Lands inappropriate for development or use under existing land laws retained by Government pending congressional enactment of appropriate legislation.

1961 First formal Federal-State cooperative land and wildlife management area established in south-central California jointly by the Bureau of Land Management and the State Fish and Wildlife Service of California. Later in 1961, six additional cooperative management areas established at various locations throughout California.

Division of Engineering created within the Bureau of Land Management to consolidate various technical and engineering services. In addition to making cadastral surveys of public lands, the division prepared survey plats, leasing maps, protraction diagrams, and other data. Division also concerned with construction of access roads, detention dams, water reservoirs, and recreation facilities on public lands. Spheres of interest also include radio communication and other uses of electronic equipment and devices.

Need for intensive water conservation influenced the Bureau of Land Management in disposition of large acreage of arid public lands destined for settlement and agricultural use in the West. In order to prevent unnecessary depletion of underground water reserves, entries for public lands were not allowed in such areas with declining water tables.

First addition to national park system during 1961 was transfer by Bureau of Land Management of 15,360 acres of public lands near Tucson, Arizona, for expansion of Saguaro National Monument.

First mineral lease issued for phosphate mining on submerged lands of Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California. Also, first undersea phosphate mining venture on Federal lands.

1962 On the sesquicentennial of the establishment of the General Land Office and the founding of the first organized system of public land management, a total of 15 land offices support the Bureau of Land Management—successor to the General Land Office. Organization and functions of the Bureau of Land Management today reflect the principal areas of interest: Lands and recreation, range and wildlife, forest resources, mineral resources, conservation and protection, and supporting services of administration and engineering. All of these are elements of the national system of public land management, many times improved since its original establishment in 1812.

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